

# ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-2010-0008

**HLC DATE:** March 22, 2010

April 26, 2010

May 24, 2010

June 28, 2010

July 26, 2010

August 23, 2010

**PC DATE:** October 12, 2010

**APPLICANT:** Destination Hotels and Resorts, Inc., owner

**HISTORIC NAME:** Driskill Hotel

**WATERSHED:** Town Lake

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** 117 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

**ZONING FROM:** CBD to CBD-H

**SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from central business district (CBD) to central business district – Historic Landmark (CBD-H) combining district zoning.

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:** The case has been postponed by the applicant's request since March 22, 2010. August 23, 2010: Recommended the proposed zoning change from CBD to CBD-H. Vote: 7-0.

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:** Recommended the proposed zoning change from CBD to CBD-H. Vote: 6-0 (Anderson and Dealey absent; Reddy off-dais)..

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The Driskill Hotel is listed as a Priority 1 for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984). The only portion of the hotel nominated for landmark designation at this time is the 1930 tower on 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

**CITY COUNCIL DATE:** January 13, 2011

**ACTION:**

**ORDINANCE READINGS:** 1<sup>ST</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup>

**ORDINANCE NUMBER:**

**CASE MANAGER:** Steve Sadowsky

**PHONE:** 974-6454

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:** Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association

## **BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

### **Architecture:**

The hotel consists of the original ca. 1886 four-story Romanesque Revival section, constructed of pressed brick with white limestone trim and large porticos on the east and south elevations, and a 12-story ca. 1930 tower on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The only portion of the hotel nominated for landmark designation at this time is the 1930 tower on 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Historical Associations:**

Colonel Jesse Driskill purchased the property at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Brazos Streets in 1884, demolishing the old feed store which had been on the site. Driskill had made his money in the cattle business before moving to Austin around 1870, furnishing beef for the Confederate Army

and then driving cattle to railheads in Kansas. He decided to build a first class hotel in Austin, and hired local architect Jasper N. Preston to design the building. Preston, born in upstate New York in 1832, had been raised and educated in Lansing, Michigan. He moved to Austin in 1875, and began a successful architectural career, designing business buildings, such as the Tips Hardware Building on Congress Avenue, and the Hannig Building on E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; he also designed many homes and churches in the city. He was on the jury to pick the design for the State Capitol after the old capitol burned in 1881, and served as the supervising architect on the Capitol project. After designing the Driskill Hotel, he moved to Los Angeles, California.

Preston designed a monumental four-story Romanesque Revival building for Colonel Driskill's hotel, constructed of pressed brick with white limestone trim. Each of the three principal facades featured a gabled parapet, each of which was topped with a bust of a member of the Driskill family, crafted by Italian artisans. Colonel Driskill looks over the principal and south façade, facing 6<sup>th</sup> Street; his son A.W. ("Tobe") looks over the west façade, and son J.W. looks over the east (Brazos Street) façade. The arches in the porticos on the south and east elevations of the building were reputed to be the largest in the state.

Work began on the hotel in January, 1885. The brick and limestone were both local, while the plate glass, hardware, tile, and other materials were personally chosen by Driskill and Preston on a trip to the east coast. Driskill envisioned a first-class hotel for Austin, and chose only the finest materials for the building. The hotel had all of the modern conveniences of the time, including steam heat, a hydraulic elevator, and an outside window for every room. The plastering was done by George Oag, who had done all the plasterwork at the then-new Post Office on W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Sam French did all the woodwork in the hotel. The hotel opened to great fanfare and celebration in December, 1886. The Driskill was quickly accepted by Austinites as a social hub – Governor Sul Ross held his inaugural ball at the hotel in January, 1887, beginning a long tradition of the Driskill's status as the epicenter of political life in Austin and Texas. Besides Sul Ross, Texas governors Hobby, Ma Ferguson, and Dan Moody held their inaugural balls at the hotel.

However, Colonel Driskill's association with the hotel was short-lived. Driskill lost a lot of money in the winter of 1886-1887 when a hard winter following a long drought decimated his cattle business. At the same time, S.E. McIlhenny, who leased the hotel from Driskill, moved to Galveston to manage the Beach Hotel there, and the Driskill Hotel closed. Tom Smith, who had been the manager of the Raymond House hotel on Congress Avenue, re-opened the hotel in January, 1888, but Driskill sold the hotel that same year to J.M. ("Doc") Day.

With the completion of the new State Capitol in 1888, the hotel flourished. The Driskill had a telegraph office, news and cigar stand, and a drug store fountain. The hotel also became known as a fine place to dine in downtown Austin, with a large and exotic menu. However, Day had sunk a lot of money into the hotel, and the mortgage was held by British businessmen. Day sold the hotel in 1893 to actor Maurice B. Curtis, who had agreed to assume Day's mortgage notes. He defaulted on the notes and the hotel was purchased at auction in 1894 by C.H. Silliman, a Fort Worth banker. In 1895, Major George W. Littlefield, who had opened his bank in the southeast corner of the hotel in 1890, purchased the building from Silliman, and began a modernization campaign, installing a new electrical system, long distance telephone service, an ice plant, a steam laundry, and adding 28 rooms to the hotel. Littlefield ran the Driskill until 1903. Dr. E.P. Wilmot, a banking rival of Littlefield's, purchased the hotel in 1906 and installed W.L. Stark as the manager; Stark remained in that position until the 1950s.

The first-class hotel market in Austin changed dramatically in the early 1920s with the construction of the Stephen F. Austin Hotel at 7<sup>th</sup> and Congress; for the first time, the Driskill had real competition for the high-end clientele. The Driskill responded by adding more rooms to the old structure at 6<sup>th</sup> and Brazos by converting the older guest rooms into smaller rooms,

and then constructed the annex, which extended the hotel from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The annex was designed by the El Paso firm of Trost and Trost in 1928, and was completed in 1930, as a high-rise.

A major renovation of the hotel occurred in 1952 with modernization of the rooms, lobby, and the installation of air conditioning. The old main entrance of the hotel on 6<sup>th</sup> Street was blocked off, and Austinites who were used to crossing through the hotel from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street were no longer able to do so. The hotel suffered several fires in the 1950s and 1960s, and closed in 1969, although the private clubs and several businesses in the hotel remained open. The furnishings of the hotel were auctioned off in 1969 when the owners prepared to demolish the hotel and construct a new high-rise glass and steel tower in its place. People throughout Austin and Texas decried the fate of the old hotel, and a group of civic leaders led by local architect Max Brooks, organized the Driskill Hotel Corporation, which bought the hotel and began a campaign to renovate, preserve, and rehabilitate the building. The Driskill reopened in 1973 with a grand celebration of preservationists and civic leaders; the inaugural party was attended by representatives and descendants of every Texas governor since the opening of the hotel. The civic group sold the hotel that year to Braniff Hotels, which pledged a massive restoration program. Braniff sold the hotel in 1980 to a California hotel group, which also announced a restoration program for the hotel. The hotel changed hands again in the 1980s, but in 1987, the mortgage holder had to foreclose on the property. The Great American Life Insurance Company of Los Angeles purchased the Driskill in 1995, and embarked on a \$30 million restoration program, which began in 1996.

**PARCEL NO.:** 02060307130000

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** The West 80 feet of Lots 7 and 8, and the North 12 x 80 feet and South 34 x 60 feet of Lot 9, and the North 22 x 60 feet of Lot 10, Block 69, Original City.

**ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT:** \$ 269,257; city portion: \$70,652 (for the original portion of the hotel and the tower).

**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$31,731,959 (for the original portion of the hotel and the tower).

**PRESENT USE:** Hotel

**CONDITION:** Excellent

**PRESENT OWNERS:** Destination Hotels and Resorts, Inc.

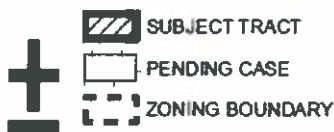
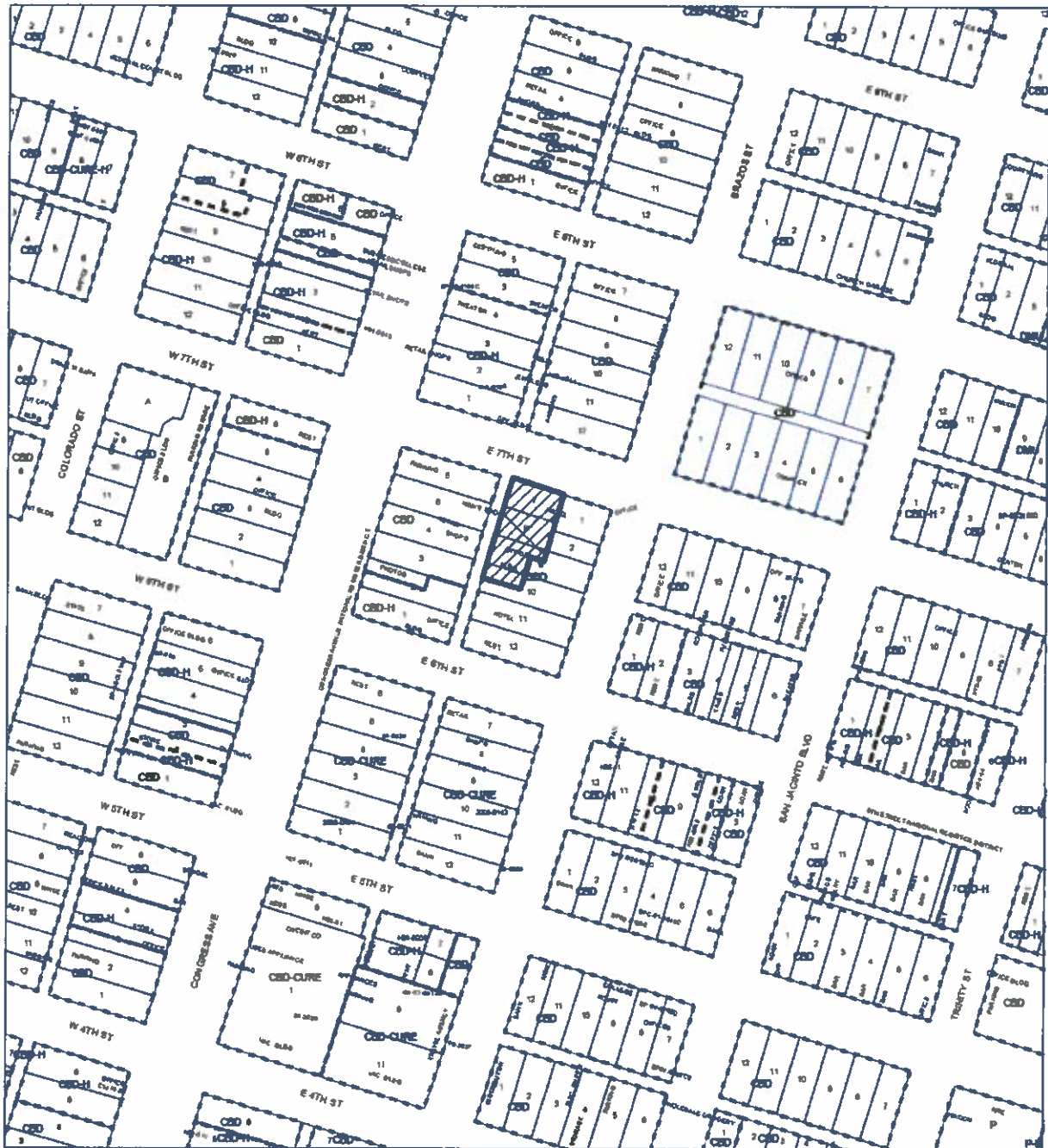
**DATE BUILT:** ca. 1886 with a ca. 1930 high-rise addition.

**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** The original part of the hotel has been restored to its 1886 appearance, reversing changes that were made in a ca. 1952 modernization project. The ca. 1930 tower has had some alterations to it, including the installation of a modern storefront on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and the installation of fixed sash windows.

**ORIGINAL OWNER(S):** Jesse L. Driskill (1886)

**OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:** The Driskill Hotel is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark.

# LOCATION MAP



## HISTORIC ZONING

ZONING CASE#: C14H-2010-0008  
 LOCATION: 604 BRAZOS ST; 117 E 7TH ST  
 GRID: J22  
 MANAGER: S SADOWSKY



This map has been produced by the Communications Technology Management Dept. on behalf of the Planning Development Review Dept. for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.





**J. L. Driskill**  
*founder*

Colonel Jesse Lincoln Driskill, founder of the hotel

# **Driskill Hotel.**

## **AMERICAN PLAN.**

State headquarters T. P. A. Also  
Headquarters Post 7.

Dolls, Receipts, Banquets and  
Wedding Parties Specialty Catered for.  
Steam Laundry now open with  
modern improvements. First-class  
work guaranteed.

**IRWIN DANIEL.**

Manager.

Advertisement from the Austin Daily Statesman  
November 9, 1899



The Deliskill Hotel

Undated historic photograph, but likely 1901. George W. Littlefield opened his bank in the southeast corner of the hotel in 1890. The façade to the left faces 6<sup>th</sup> Street; the façade to the right faces Brazos Street.



View east on 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Congress Avenue shows the early scale of the hotel.

FINEST ROOMS WITH BATH IN THE SOUTH  
ELECTRIC LIGHT AND STEAM HEAT THROUGHOUT.



STATE HEADQUARTERS T. P. A.  
ALSO POST OFFICE T. P. A.

*The*  
**DRISKILL**  
American Plan

G. W. LITTLEFIELD.  
PROPRIETOR  
IRWIN DANIEL.  
MANAGER

RATES  
\$3.00 TO \$5.00 PER DAY

*AUSTIN, TEXAS*

190

Undated advertisement for the Driskill Hotel, but prior to 1903, when Littlefield sold the hotel.

"The Home of Southern Hospitality"

*The*  
**DRISKILL**

EXTENDS  
A Personal Invitation

—to old and new students and to  
faculty members . . . . .  
—to make the DRISKILL their  
down-town headquarters.

**The Driskill Hotel**  
W. L. STARK, Manager

Undated advertisement

# Texas Hotel Polishes Its 'Diamond'

By Janis Lynn Knebl  
Special to The Christian Science Monitor  
Austin, Texas

"Finest hotel south of St. Louis"—that's the way advertisements 75 years ago described the Driskill Hotel here. Yet there were no screens on the mammoth windows, no telephones, no electric lights, and no steam heat.

Preparing to celebrate its diamond anniversary in December, the Driskill maintains its reputation as a colorful place to stay in Texas' capital city.

Built by Col. Jessie L. Driskill, a hard-living cattleman, the building was finished in 1885. News of Colonel Driskill's inn spread. Furnishings worth an estimated \$50,000 were purchased in the East; and, when they passed through the hands of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad, representatives were quick to sense the shipment's ultimate value. They contacted the owner and received permission to use the Driskill in a set of advertisements, portraying the hotel as "the Winter Resort for the Frozen North."

## Property Sold

In 1887, Driskill sold the property, and thereafter it changed hands a number of times. The Driskill Hotel Company, current owner, acquired the property in 1908.

Each proprietor repaired the structure and added equipment, yet changed little of the Driskill's outward appearance. Early improvements included an ice factory and an electric light plant. To insure patrons an ample supply of water, the artesian well under the building was tapped; and native lumber, found stored in the hotel, was used in 1923 to build a coffee bar.

The skylight, which had fascinated visitors, was enclosed after

bats from the countryside infested the rotunda and eluded all capture attempts. A 13-story annex was added later.

From its beginning the Driskill has bragged of its satisfied visitors. Walter P. Stuart of Dallas was so impressed with the service when he visited the hotel on his wedding trip in 1895 that he wanted to return on his golden anniversary. A postcard request for a room was returned with an apology; a convention had taken over the hotel for the period desired, and there was no room available.

## Situation Explained

An Austin friend intervening for Mr. Stuart explained the situation to J. L. Stark, the manager. Realizing the significance of the request, Mr. Stark found room space.

What was the old hotel like?

Each of the principal façades of pressed brick, dressed with white limestone, loomed up like a palace. Stone carvings of Colonel Driskill and his sons, J. W. (Bud) and A. W. (Tobe) were placed on columns at each of the three entrances along with symbols of the longhorn, cherubim and seraphim.

With the opening of the grand hotel, theatrical managers had no trouble booking the best talent in the profession, such as Edwin Booth, Sol Smith Russell, and Helena Modjeska. After the opera or play, the theater crowd made its way to the Driskill.

## Judge 'Unseated'

Old-timers remember when Chief Justice Reuben R. Gaines was host at a formal five-course dinner party. As a young lady entered the room, the judge, a true gentleman, stood up. The waiter, trying to anticipate his every move, thought that he was going to carve the turkey. Quick-

ly and quietly he pulled the chair back to give the judge more room. The young lady seated, the judge sat down, too—pulling the cloth, food, and silverware to the floor with him.

The first formal affair in the Crystal Ballroom was the inaugural ball of Gov. L. S. Ross. Panels and draperies in the ballroom were of a specially woven fabric with heavily threaded designs in beige, rose, and blue. Enriching the scene were great corridors which took an estimated 1,500 square yards of velvet carpeting.

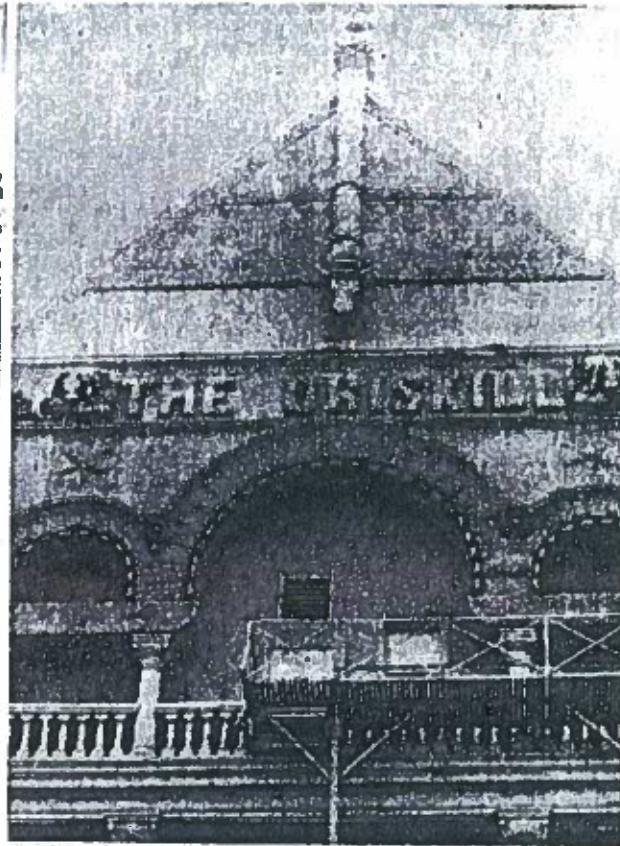
In the center of the room hung the ebony crystallized ball, which gave the room its name. It was to observe the political fortunes of many in the 60 years it hung in the room. In 1952 it was replaced by an elaborate chandelier from New Orleans. The crystal ball now decorates a rival hotel.

Perhaps the most talked-of room is the Maximilian Room, with its gold-leaf mirrors designed for the Empress Carlotta of Mexico as a wedding gift from her husband Emperor Maximilian. Framed in rich fabric panels, draperies, and carpeting, the eight hand-carved mirrors reflect all events in the room.

A gilt medallion, rumored to be an exact likeness of the Empress, is placed in a cameo effect above the center of each mirror. Carlotta never saw the mirrors, and they were not viewed by the public until the Driskill purchased them in 1930. Maximilian had ordered them sent to San Antonio for safe keeping while his government remained unstable.

A fine hotel, a beautiful home. The Driskill cannot look back and see itself. It is itself today the colorful Driskill of 1885.

Article in the Christian Science Monitor, January 3, 1961



**DRISKILL HOTEL AT EAST SEVENTH AND CONGRESS**  
Historic hotel will close Tuesday (Staff photo by John Yates)

## 'Driskill Era' Coming to End

By ROWLAND MCKINAWAY  
Staff Writer

For the first time since 1886, the Driskill Hotel will close its rooms to the public next Tuesday.

Hotel manager (Mike Sweet said Thursday that parts of the hotel will remain open on an indefinite basis. These include the Citadel Club, Driskill Club, and the dining room, plus the barbers, beauty and flower shops.

Sweet said the closing is timed with the adjournment of the Legislature since about 40 legislators and lobbyists are staying at the hotel.

Some hope still exists for the historic old hotel in the form of Austin architect Max Rorick, who heads a Save-the-Driskill group.

Brecht said Thursday that the situation was "still in the category of being looked into." He said that he has been in touch with Ralph O'Connor, president of Highland

Ranchman, Inc., of Houston, owners of the hotel, but that there were no new developments.

Sweet said that he was sorry to see the hotel close for historical reasons but that it was difficult "to keep it in competition with the newer properties."

The Driskill Hotel first opened its doors on December 26, 1886. A Northern newspaper on hand at the opening wrote that the new Driskill in Austin was "the finest hotel south of St. Louis—a magnificent hotel whose appointments would be unobtrusive to St. Louis or San Francisco."

The original part of the hotel was built by Colonel Jesse L. Driskill, a Texas cattleman who told his builders to put only the finest of materials into his new hotel. He said he wanted it constructed as a deer would never sag. People at the Driskill Thursday said that none of the doors has sagged yet.

When the Driskill was built there were no telephones, no steam heat and no screens on the windows. But it was still, for miles around, the center for all elegant gatherings, parties and crowd balls.

The rooms were heated by fireplaces and had mirrors large enough for the young ladies to see the edges of their wide ruffled dresses. There also were large walnut wardrobes and even a button to push to bring the bell boys running in each room.

The Driskill Hotel has always been a stopping place for visiting businessmen. But in those days, the businessmen rode up to the hotel on a horse with only saddle bags of baggage. A livery stable, across the way on Seventh Street cared for the guests' horses.

Such theatrical greats as Arma Held, Stuart Nelson, Edwin Booth and many others have their signatures on the old hotel registers.

But these were the old days and Tuesday the "Venerable Driskill" is closing. About 100 employees will be let go with about \$200,000 of the hotel's money in severance pay. Only sixty employees will remain to work in the clubs and shops.

Driskill manager Sweet said, "Within the organization we have over 60 years of hotel experience."

One of the employees, who joined over twenty years ago, said Thursday, "It just won't seem the same not coming back to this grand old hotel every morning."

A lot of people will feel that way.

Austin History Center

# Reprieve Won By Driskill

By BARBARA WOOLLEY  
Staff Writer

It's not saved yet, but the Driskill Hotel received a four-month "reprieve" Thursday when a group of Austinites announced formation of the Driskill Hotel Corporation and a plan to restore the "old" Driskill to its former elegance — along with a couple of significant additions.

The additions are a new 12-story ultra-modern tower adjacent to the original building and a 100-car parking garage across the street on the present Driskill parking lot.

Austin architect Max Brooks, spokesman for the corporation, said its aims are twofold: to save the Driskill and to create for the city of Austin "something it really needs — a fine hybrid and convention facility."

The plan includes a convention center which would utilize the second and third floors of the 19th Century building situated at 6th St. and Brazos. The floor would be connected by escalators, providing a meeting hall with a seating capacity of more than 1,000.

Brooks said the total value of the project, including the parking garage, will be in excess of \$6 million, but declined to estimate at this time what the "excess" would be.

Plans call for the corporation to buy the land where the present 12-story Driskill addition is located — on 7th St. — and to lease both the original building and the parking area on a 99-year basis.

The present addition will be torn down and replaced by the 12-story structure.

Malcolm O'Connor, president of Highland Resources, Inc., of Houston, owners of the Driskill, said the Driskill Hotel Corporation had been given an option for the purchase and the lease.

The option expires Oct. 1. O'Connor said his firm extended "complete cooperation and support" to the project, and described it as "the most feasible plan yet forth" to achieve the objectives of saving the Driskill and providing Austin with a "first-class hotel facility."

Brooks stressed that the success of the project is contingent in large part on public support.

"We are developing plans now for citizen participation through long-range guaranteed reservations of rooms," he said. He said ideas the corporation is discussing are aimed at "giving many people an opportunity to show in a small way their



**THE 'NEW DRISKILL'**—This artist's concept shows the proposed new Driskill Hotel facilities as viewed from 7th Street looking south. On the right in the proposed 12-story Driskill Hotel Tower, to be constructed on the site of the present 12-story addition. On the left

and in the background is the original four-story Driskill Hotel, located on the corner of 6th Street and Brazos. In front of it is a glassed-in facility which was not described in detail in the announcement of plans for the project.

interest in preserving this Texas landmark."

He added that more detailed information on the corporation's plans should be available "within two weeks."

Other principals involved in the corporation are Sidney Olat Small Jr., Sen. Charles Herring, banker Tom McCrummen, architect Howard Barr, Malcolm Wilkins of Capital Steel, architect David Gruber, Lick Heyman of Reynolds-Pensland, architect Roy White, public relations executive George Christian, Banks Miller Jr., Bob Smith and attorney John J. McKay. All of Austin.

Brooks said response to the long-term reservation plan was "critical to provide funds to fill the gap" between the amount of money the corporation can raise and the actual cost of the project. No estimate was given of the cost of the purchase from Highland.

The interior of the original four-story building will be completely remodeled, and the exterior will be restored.

The Crystal Ballroom and the Maxwell Room on the second floor will be retained, but remodeled to provide a perimeter for the convention floor.

The original building's present furnishings will be included in

the lease agreement, and Brooks said there is a possibility of establishing a facility to display items of historical and artistic significance.

With the October date as a deadline for financing and architectural planning, the corporation has set a time goal for work to begin on demolishing the 12-story tower.

By January 1, 1970, according to the corporation's plans, full-scale remodeling of the old Driskill and construction of the Driskill Hotel Tower will have begun.

The corporation has set Sept. 1, 1971, as the date for the hotel's grand opening.

Brooks added that the corporation's goal was to provide Austin with a hotel "on a level with the finest hotels in the country."



Architectural rendering of the ca. 1930 annex tower



**THE DRISKILL'S OLD 12-story annex will take on a new look after refurbishing this year that includes expanding the existing hotel rooms and complete remodeling. The Driskill, which was recently spared death from the wrecker, will be operated and managed by Braniff International when it reopens next year. The long-time landmark of downtown Austin has been closed since 1969.**

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Unknown publication, 1971

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, JAN. 21, 1973

A guest list of historic proportions is forming for the Austin Heritage Society's February 10-11 weekend gala marking formal reopening of the famous Driskill Hotel in downtown Austin.

At least one blood relative of each Texas Governor since 1886--in some cases, several--will be special guests for a Saturday night Grand Ball and a Sunday afternoon Tea Dance staged by the Heritage Society as a benefit for its Capital City projects. Each Governor will be represented in a formal Presentation ceremony slated for the Ball, and the Jim Hogg Suite on the hotel's mezzanine, where political VIPs have been billeted through the years, will feature special tables for the honorees. Again, at the Tea Dance, gubernatorial relatives and descendants will be special guests.

Governor John Ireland (1883-1887) will be represented by Mrs. J. Chrys Dougherty, a great-granddaughter, and Mr. Dougherty of Austin, while Governor Lawrence (Sul) Ross (1887-91) will be represented by his grandson, Lt. Col. Neville P. Clark of San Antonio. Hosting Col. Clark will be close Austin friends, Brig. Gen. and Mrs. John C. Horton.

Miss Ima Hogg of Houston, prominent Texas historic preservationist and one-time Honorary Chairman of the Austin Heritage Society's annual Antiques Show, will be at the parties representing her father, Governor James S. Hogg (1891-95). Her hosts will be Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jones of Austin.

Governor Charles A. Culberson (1895-99) will be represented by his great-grandnephew, Bill Poddock of Houston, and Mrs. Poddock, while Governor Joseph D. Sayers (1899-03) will be represented by his nephew, Ralph Sayers, and Mrs. Sayers of Houston. Judge and Mrs. Bob Shannon will be weekend hosts to the Sayerses.

Governor S.W.T. Lanham (1903-07), who made news in Austin when he calmly walked his family from a downtown hotel up Congress Avenue to his inauguration ceremony at the Capitol, will be represented by a grandson, the Rev. Sam Lanham of Houston, and Mrs. Lanham. Hosts to the Lanhams will be Mr. and Mrs. James Motheral and Mrs. Fritz ~~Lanham~~ of Austin.

Governor Thomas M. Campbell (1907-11) will be represented at the parties by a grandson, Thomas Wommack, and Mrs. Wommack of Austin, and a great-granddaughter, Diane Wommack Daniel (Mrs. Price Daniel, Jr.).

Governor James E. Ferguson (1915-17) will be represented by a grandson, James Stuart Watt of Austin, and Mrs. Watt. Representing Governor William P. Hobby (1917-21) will, of course, be his son, Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby of Houston and Austin, and Mrs. Hobby, while the other Hobby honoree will be his widow, a prominent Texan in her own right, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby of Houston. Senator and Mrs. Charles Herring will be hosts to the Hobbys.

Hallie Maud Neff (Mrs. Frank) Wilcox of Waco will represent her father, Governor Pat Neff (1921-25), and will have as her Austin hosts Mr. and Mrs. Sam Wood. Governor Miriam A. Ferguson ~~1925-27 and 1933-35~~ (1925-27 and 1933-35) will be represented by her grandson, George Nalle, Jr., of Austin and Mrs. Nalle.

Governor Dan Moody (1927-31) will be represented by his widow; his son Dan Moody, Jr., and Mrs. Moody; and his daughter, Mrs. Nancy Moody Hydson, all of Austin. Representing Governor Ross Sterling (1931-33) will be his son, Walter Sterling, and Mrs. Sterling of Houston. Their weekend hosts will be long-time friends, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Caven.

Governor James V. Allred (1935-39) will be represented by a son, David Allred, and Mrs. Allred of . Hosting them will be Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bolton, who were friends of the Governor.

Governor W. Lee O'Daniel (1939-41) will be represented by his daughter, remembered as "Molly" and now Mrs. Richard E. Danielson of Los Angeles. Mrs. Danielson will be accompanied to Austin by her entire family, occupying a suite at the Driskill. Hosts to the Danielsons will be Mr. and Mrs. Clyde W. Smith.

Governor Coke R. Stevenson (1941-47) hopes to be present for the ceremonies, but he will also be represented by such family members as Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. Coke Stevenson, Jr., of Austin, and his daughter,  
of

Representing Governor Beauford Jester (1947-49) will be his widow, now Mrs. Josh Morris of Texarkana, or a daughter, Mrs. Tom Berry of Houston, and Mr. Berry. Hosting them will be Land Commissioner and Mrs. Bob Landis Armstrong.

Governor ~~substantive~~ Allan Shivers (1949-57) and Mrs. Shivers will be present for the festivities, as will Governor Price Daniel (1957-63) and Mrs. Daniel. Both families still reside in Austin, Governor Shivers as Chairman of the Austin National Bank and Governor Daniel as a Justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

Making every effort to adjust his schedule to be present is Governor John B. Connally (1963-69), ~~who~~ who will be accompanied by Mrs. Connally, while Governor ~~and~~ Preston Smith (1969-73) and Mrs. Smith plan to return to the Capital City from Lubbock.

Governor and Mrs. Dolph Briscoe will be making one of their first official appearances in Austin since their inaugural ceremonies on January 16.

Impressive as the aforementioned list of gubernatorial VIPS may be, it does not include numerous other members of Governors' families who will be among the party guests. Only Texas Governor whose descendants have not yet been able to accept invitations ~~is~~ is Governor Oscar B. Colquitt (1911-15),

for whom relatives have been located in Florida and California.

General Chairman for the Driskill opening parties is Mrs. Bob R. Armstrong of Austin, who may be contacted through the Heritage Society office, P.O. Box 2113, Austin, 78767, for information regarding patron and regular tickets for the Grand Ball, sponsor and regular tickets for the Tea Dance. All proceeds from the parties will benefit the Austin Heritage Society.

The Driskill Hotel, first opened on December 20, 1886, is now the property of the Driskill Hotel Corporation, a publicly-owned company. It is being operated by the Braniff International Hotel Division.

Copy for a story on the 1973 re-opening gala